

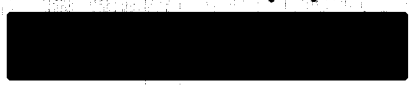
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U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT

I. HEADING

Date: May 22, 2003

Subject: **Mill Street Mercury Spill**



From: Fred Micke, OSC, Region 5

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POLREP # 1 (Initial)

II. BACKGROUND

Start Date: March 6, 2003

Site ID# B56F

Completion Date: Ongoing

III. SITE INFORMATION

A. Incident Category--CERCLA Time Critical Removal Action

Mercury contamination was found in a condominium unit in Des Plaines, IL. The removal action entailed the removal of mercury and mercury contaminated materials from the condominium unit. In addition, mercury contamination was found in a house in Harvard, IL. The cleanup of the house in Harvard has not been completed to date.

B. Site Description and Background

Condominium Unit # 207 located at [REDACTED] was sold in January 2003. During the move into the Unit, the new owner found mercury in the kitchen stove. The Unit was surveyed for mercury contamination on March 6, 2003. The survey performed by OSC Fred Micke with the assistance of Civil Investigator Joe Kawecki indicated that the Unit had mercury contamination was high as 15,000 nanograms/cubic meter. Mercury levels in a residence should be 1000 nanograms/cubic meter or less.

This Agency sent a notice letter to the prior owner (now located in Harvard, IL) of the Unit on March 11, 2003. The letter informed the prior owner of the mercury contamination, his potential liability, and the need for corrective action. The letter also gave the prior owner the opportunity to perform the corrective action work. The prior owner, Mr. [REDACTED] agreed to perform the work.

Mr. [REDACTED] contractor started cleanup actions at the Unit on April 14. A mercury survey of the Unit by OSCs Craig Thomas and Fred Micke on April 16 indicated that the Unit was still contaminated with mercury. The contractor returned to the Unit on May 12 and completed the removal activities on May 16. The Unit was surveyed by OSC Fred Micke on May 20. The survey indicated that the mercury levels in the Unit were less than 1000 nanograms/cubic meter throughout the Unit and, therefore, no further removal actions were warranted. The Unit will need renovation work in order to be livable. This work has not been initiated to date.

V. COST INFORMATION

Other than USEPA personnel costs, all other costs are borne by the responsible party (Mr. [REDACTED]) and are unknown at this time.

VI. DISPOSITION OF WASTE

All materials removed from the Unit are presently in a roll-off box and are awaiting proper disposal.

VII. OTHER INFORMATION

The house in Harvard, IL owned by Mr. [REDACTED] was surveyed on April 25 by OSC Fred Micke. The house was found to be contaminated with mercury. The removal of mercury contamination from the house has not been initiated to date. Through his attorney and his contractor, Mr. Gaunt has indicated that removal activities at his house will begin on May 27, 2003.